

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: STRANGE NEW FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN DECAROLIS AND THE
UNIFIED COMMUNIST PARTY (PCUI)

1. THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 17 IN FLORENCE WITNESSED WHAT HAS TO BE ONE OF ITS MORE BIZARRE POLITICAL SCENES WHEN THERE APPEARED ON THE SAME STAGE, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE MOVIMENTO CRISTIANO DEI LAVORATORI (MCL), CONSERVATIVE DC DEPUTY MASSIMO DECAROLIS, WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNIFIED COMMUNIST PARTY OSVALDO PESCE, ALONG WITH MODERATE DC SENATOR LUCIANO BAUSI, TO DISCUSS CHINA AND EUROPE. AT FIRST IT SEEMED THAT THE ONLY COMMON THREAD WAS THEIR DESCRIPTION OF THEIR SEPARATE VISITS TO CHINA AT DIFFERENT TIMES. BAUSI OPENED WITH A CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT CHINESE HISTORY. DECAROLIS FOLLOWED WITH OBSERVATIONS OF WHAT HE PERCEIVED TO BE SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF CHINESE-EUROPEAN RELATIONS.

2. PESCE FIRST OFFERED A CURSORY CRITICISM OF UNITED STATES PAST POLICIES AND THEN LAUNCHED INTO A BITTER
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DENUNCIATION OF SOVIET "SOCIALIST-IMPERIALISM" IN AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA, SPECIFYING PARTICULARLY ETHIOPIA, CAMBODIA, AND EXPLOITATION OF CUBA FOR SOVIET "SOCIALIST-IMPERIALISTIC" ENDS. HE WENT ON TO DENOUNCE EVEN MORE VITRIOLICALLY THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE CGIL TRADE UNION. PESCE CALLED FOR ADVANCING THE SCHEDULE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, INCREASING THE

ITALIAN DEFENSE BUDGET, STRENGTHENING THE COMMITMENT TO NATO AND A GENERALLY MORE AGGRESSIVE POLICY AGAINST SOVIET "SOCIALIST-IMPERIALISM." HE DERIDED PCI SECRETARY BERLINGUER AS AN IGNOMINIOUS TOOL OF THE SOVIETS AND CGIL SECRETARY LUCIANO LAMA AS NO BETTER AND DENIGRATED THEIR PRETENSES OF PLURALISM. PARTICULARLY INTERESTING WAS PESCE'S DETAILING OF ABUSES OF BASIC FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY WITHIN THE CGIL TO THE POINT OF PHYSICALLY PUNISHING MEMBERS WHO ASKED QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTED INDEPENDENT POLICY ALTERNATIVES. PESCE RESERVED SPECIAL POLEMICS FOR SOVIET INSPIRATION AND MATERIAL SUPPORT OF THE INVASION OF CAMBODIA. HE CRITICIZED SOVIET "OCCUPATION" AND ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE PCI FOR ITS BLIND, UNVARIED SUPPORT OF SOVIET POLICIES IN ALL IMPORTANT MATTERS. PESCE BRIEFLY EXTOLLED MAO TZE TUNG AND THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

3. PESCE HAS BEEN AROUND THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE FOR A LONG TIME BEDEVILING THE PCI BUT GENERALLY HAS RECEIVED VERY LITTLE ATTENTION AND LESS MEDIA COVERAGE. DECAROLIS WHO IS NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AND BAUSI WHO IS LOCALLY WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED PESCE'S AUDIENCE. FOR ONE THING HE GOT WEST GERMAN AND LOCAL TV AND PRESS COVERAGE (WITH PHOTOGRAPHS) AND FOR ANOTHER HE GOT AN AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 600, PROBABLY LARGER THAN HE HAS SEEN IN SOME TIME IF NOT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LARGEST IN HIS CAREER. HE DREW MUCH WARM APPLAUSE AND STARTLED THE AUDIENCE BY APPLAUDING WITH THEM IN SOVIET STYLE. WE NOTE FROM THE PRESS THAT DECAROLIS AGAIN APPEARED ON STAGE WITH PESCE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, IN MILAN AT A RALLY AGAINST THE AGGRESSION OF "RUSSIAN SOCIALIST-IMPERIALISM" AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA.
GORDON

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